

Hearing Date: July 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)

Objection Deadline: April 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / 4:00 p.m. (AST)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

----- X
:
In re: :
:
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND : PROMESA
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO, : Title III
:
as representative of : Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)
:
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*, : (Jointly Administered)
:
Debtors.¹ :
----- X

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON EIGHTH INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF ZOLFO
COOPER, LLC, AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF
UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT
OF EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD FROM
OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the annexed *Eighth Interim Fee Application* of Zolfo Cooper, LLC, as Financial Advisor to Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for Period from October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 (the “Application”) filed by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of all title III Debtors (other than PBA and COFINA), pursuant to section 1103(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, made applicable to these cases by section 301 of the Puerto Rico Oversight,

¹ The Debtors in these title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

Management and Economic Stability Act of 2016 or “PROMESA”, will be held before the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Court Judge, at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, in Room 3, 150 Carlos Chardón Street, Federal Building, Office 150, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1767 on **July 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)** (the “Hearing”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any responses or objections (“Objections”) to the Application by any party other than the Fee Examiner shall be in writing, shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be filed with the court (a) by attorneys practicing in the District Court, including attorneys admitted *pro hac vice*, electronically in accordance with rule 5 of the Local Rules for the District of Puerto Rico, and (b) by all other parties in interest, on a CD-ROM, in text-searchable portable document format (PDF), to the extent applicable, and shall be served in accordance with the *Second Amended Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* [Docket No. 3269] (the “Interim Compensation Order”), so as to be so filed and received by the Notice Parties (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) no later than **April 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / 4:00 p.m. (AST)** (the “Objection Deadline”).

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, if no Objections are timely filed, and if the Fee Examiner issues the Fee Examiner Report (as defined in the Interim Compensation Order) recommending approval of the Application in full or in part, the court may grant the Application without a hearing.

Dated: March 16, 2020

/s/ G. Alexander Bongartz

PAUL HASTINGS LLP

Luc. A. Despina, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)

Andrew V. Tenzer, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)

Michael E. Comerford, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)

G. Alexander Bongartz, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)

200 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10166

Telephone: (212) 318-6000

lucdespina@paulhastings.com

andrewtenzer@paulhastings.com

michaelcomerford@paulhastings.com

alex bongartz@paulhastings.com

Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

- and -

/s/ Juan J. Casillas Ayala

CASILLAS, SANTIAGO & TORRES LLC

Juan J. Casillas Ayala, Esq., USDC - PR 218312

Diana M. Battle-Barasorda, Esq., USDC - PR 213103

Alberto J. E. Añeses Negrón, Esq., USDC - PR 302710

Ericka C. Montull-Novoa, Esq., USDC - PR 230601

El Caribe Office Building

53 Palmeras Street, Ste. 1601

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901-2419

Telephone: (787)523-3434

jasillas@cstlawpr.com

dbattle@cstlawpr.com

aaneses@cstlawpr.com

emontull@cstlawpr.com

Local Counsel to Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

Hearing Date: July 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. (AST)
Objection Deadline: April 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (ET) / 4:00 p.m. (AST)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

-----X
:
In re: : **PROMESA**
:
:
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND : **Title III**
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR :
:
PUERTO RICO, : **Case No. 17 BK 3283 (LTS)**
:
:
as representative of : **Jointly Administered**
:
THE COMMONWEALTH OF :
PUERTO RICO, et al., :
:
:
Debtors¹. :
:
-----X

**EIGHTH INTERIM APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, FINANCIAL
ADVISOR TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020**

Name of Applicant:	Zolfo Cooper, LLC
Authorized to Provide Professional Services to:	The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Date of Retention:	<i>Nunc Pro Tunc</i> to June 27, 2017
Period for Which Compensation and Reimbursement is Sought:	October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020

¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the: (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780 LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747) (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority ("PBA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

Amount of Interim Compensation Sought as Actual, Reasonable, and Necessary:	\$1,399,103.00 ²
Amount of Interim Expense Reimbursement Sought as Actual, Reasonable, and Necessary:	\$8,762.60
Are your fee or expense totals different from the sum of previously-served monthly statements?	No
Blended hourly rate in this application for all professionals:	\$697.49 ³

This is an *interim* application.

Number of professionals with time included in this application: 10

Are any timekeeper's hourly rates higher than those charged and approved upon retention: Yes⁴

² While ZC is seeking allowance of all its fees incurred during the Application Period, it is only seeking payment of \$1,119,282.40 which represents 80% of the \$1,399,103.00 in fees. ZC reserves its rights to seek relief from the court to the extent any outstanding fees and expenses that are due and payable are not paid on the terms set forth in the Interim Compensation Order.

³ ZC's blended hourly rate for the amounts sought to be paid hereunder is \$558.00.

⁴ As stated in Zolfo Cooper's engagement letter, Zolfo Cooper reviews its standard hourly rates semi-annually.

MONTHLY FEE REQUESTS TO DATE

Date Submitted	Monthly Period Covered	Requested Fees (80%)	Requested Expenses (100%)	Fees Paid	Expenses Paid	20% Fee Holdback
First Interim Fee Period (June 27, 2017 through September 30, 2017)						
9/27/17	6/27/17 - 7/31/17	\$854,002.20	\$9,009.70	\$854,002.20	\$9,009.70	\$213,500.55
10/20/17	8/1/17 - 8/31/17	\$787,880.80	\$26,379.03	\$787,880.80	\$26,379.03	\$196,970.20
12/5/17	9/1/17 - 9/30/17	\$471,130.40	\$2,983.96	\$471,130.40	\$2,983.96	\$117,782.60
Total		\$2,113,013.40	\$38,372.69	\$2,113,013.40	\$38,372.69	\$528,253.35
Second Interim Fee Period (October 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018)						
12/5/17	10/1/17 - 10/31/17	\$356,697.60	\$940.40 ⁵	\$356,697.60	\$940.70	\$89,174.40
1/10/18	11/1/17 - 11/30/17	\$423,968.80	\$1,251.36	\$432,968.80	\$1,251.36	\$105,992.20
2/15/18	12/1/17 - 12/31/17	\$296,904.80	\$1,900.18	\$296,904.80	\$1,900.18	\$74,226.20
3/16/18	1/1/18 - 1/31/18	\$495,133.20	\$5,633.73	\$495,133.20	\$5,633.73	\$123,783.30
Total		\$1,572,704.40	\$9,725.67	\$1,572,704.40	\$9,725.67	\$393,176.10
Third Interim Fee Period (February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018)						
4/27/18	2/1/18 – 2/28/18	\$499,252.80	\$2,066.05	\$499,252.80	\$2,066.05	\$124,813.20
5/17/18	3/1/18 – 3/31/18	\$650,565.40	\$10,502.26	\$650,565.40	10,502.26	\$162,641.35
6/22/18	4/1/18 – 4/30/18	\$750,454.40	\$1,603.57	\$750,454.40	\$1,603.57	\$187,613.60
7/13/18	5/1/18 – 5/31/18	\$628,712.80	\$5,123.74	\$628,712.80	\$5,123.74	\$157,178.20
Total		\$2,528,985.40	\$19,295.62	\$2,528,985.40	\$19,295.62	\$632,246.35
Fourth Interim Fee Period (June 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018)						
8/21/18	6/1/18 - 6/30/18	\$ 491,842.00	\$240.89	\$ 491,842.00	\$240.89	\$ 122,960.50
10/4/18	7/1/18 - 7/31/18	\$ 436,098.40	\$2,974.55	\$ 436,098.40	\$2,974.55	\$ 109,024.60
11/1/18	8/1/18 – 8/31/18	\$ 445,514.00	\$118.38	\$ 445,514.00	\$118.38	\$ 111,378.50
11/15/18	9/1/18 - 9/30/18	\$ 369,031.60	\$58.86	\$ 369,031.60	\$58.86	\$ 92,257.90
Total		\$1,742,486.00	\$ 3,392.68	\$1,742,486.00	\$ 3,392.68	\$ 435,621.50

⁵ Zolfo Cooper credited the \$0.30 in excess of the fee examiner's expense guidelines for photocopying expenses against expense amounts payable under ZC's February 2018 monthly fee statement.

Date Submitted	Monthly Period Covered	Requested Fees (80%)	Requested Expenses (100%)	Fees Paid	Expenses Paid	20% Fee Holdback
Fifth Interim Fee Period (October 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019)						
12/21/18	10/1/18 – 10/31/18	\$420,340.00	\$4,527.23	\$420,340.00	\$4,527.23	\$105,085.00
2/1/19	11/1/18 – 11/30/18	\$237,777.60	\$3.83	\$237,777.60	\$3.83	\$59,444.40
3/14/19	12/1/18 – 12/31/18	\$240,797.60	\$63.54	\$240,797.60	\$63.54	\$60,199.40
3/15/19	1/1/19 – 1/31/19	\$319,826.00	\$4,074.00	\$319,826.00	\$4,074.00	\$79,956.50
Total		\$1,218,741.20	\$8,668.60	\$1,218,741.20	\$8,668.60	\$304,685.30
Sixth Interim Fee Period (February 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019)						
6/10/19	2/1/19 – 2/28/19	\$314,147.60	\$380.96	\$314,147.60	\$380.96	\$78,536.90
6/10/19	3/1/19 – 3/31/19	\$394,104.40	\$98.40	\$394,104.40	\$98.40	\$98,526.10
7/3/19	4/1/19 – 4/30/19	\$560,333.20	\$452.82	\$560,333.20	\$452.82	\$140,083.30
7/15/19	5/1/19 – 5/31/19	\$499,670.00	\$3,631.95	\$499,670.00	\$3,631.95	\$124,917.50
Total		\$1,768,255.20	\$4,564.13	\$1,768,255.20	\$4,564.13	\$442,063.80
Seventh Interim Fee Period (June 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019)						
8/23/19	6/1/19 – 6/30/19	\$415,317.60	\$668.51	\$415,317.60	\$668.51	\$103,829.40
9/27/19	7/1/19 – 7/31/19	\$404,785.20	\$397.52	\$404,785.20	\$397.52	\$101,196.30
10/31/19	8/1/19 – 8/31/19	\$297,838.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,459.70
11/14/19	9/1/19 – 9/30/19	\$323,480.20	\$75.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,465.90
Total		\$1,441,421.80	\$1,141.63	\$820,102.80	\$1,066.03	\$363,951.30
Eighth Interim Fee Period (October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020)						
1/9/20	10/1/19 – 10/31/19	\$516,260.80	\$2,618.87	\$516,260.80	\$2,618.87	\$129,065.20
1/16/20	11/1/19 – 11/30/19	\$187,738.00	\$3,065.51	\$187,738.00	\$3,065.51	\$46,934.50
2/27/20	12/1/19 – 12/31/19	\$176,699.60	\$14.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,174.90
3/13/20	1/1/20 – 1/31/20	\$238,584.00	\$3,064.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,646.00
Total		\$1,119,282.40	\$8,762.60	\$703,998.80	\$5,684.38	\$279,820.60

PRIOR INTERIM FEE APPLICATIONS

Date Filed [Docket No.]	Application Period Covered	Requested Fees	Requested Expenses	Order [Docket No.]	Fees Allowed and Paid	Expenses Allowed and Paid
12/15/17 Docket No. 2041	6/27/17 – 9/30/17	\$2,641,266.75	\$38,372.69	Docket No. 2685	Allowed: \$2,586,174.67 Paid: \$2,113,013.40 Authorized to be paid: \$2,111,816.60 ⁶	Allowed: \$35,948.30 Paid: \$38,372.69 Authorized to be paid: \$35,948.30 ⁷
3/19/18 Docket No. 2739	10/1/17 – 1/31/18	\$1,965,880.50	\$9,725.67	Docket No. 4200	Allowed: \$1,840,850.50 Paid: \$1,572,704.40 Authorized to be paid: \$1,572,704.40	Allowed: \$9,661.50 Paid: \$9,725.67 Authorized to be paid: \$9,661.50 ⁸
7/16/18 Docket No. 3565	2/1/18 – 5/31/18	\$3,161,231.75	\$19,295.62	Docket No. 4508	Allowed: \$3,016,154.98 Paid: \$2,528,985.40 Authorized to be paid: \$2,528,985.40	Allowed: \$19,295.62 Paid: \$19,295.62 Authorized to be paid: \$19,295.62
11/16/18 Docket No. 4323	6/1/18 – 9/30/18	\$2,178,107.50	\$3,392.68	Docket No. 5654	Allowed: \$2,103,756.60 Paid: \$1,742,486.00 Authorized to be paid: \$1,742,486.00	Allowed: \$3,392.68 Paid: \$3,392.68 Authorized to be paid: \$3,392.68
3/18/19 Docket No. 5820	10/1/18 – 1/31/19	\$1,523,426.50	\$8,668.60	Docket No. 7670	Allowed: \$1,485,471.61 Paid: \$1,218,741.20 Authorized to be paid: \$1,218,741.20	Allowed: \$7,911.87 Paid: \$8,668.60 Authorized to be paid: \$7,911.87 ⁹

⁶ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$1,196.80 against the amounts payable under the February 2018 fee statement.

⁷ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$2,424.39 against the amounts payable under the February 2018 fee statement.

⁸ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$64.17 against the amounts payable under the October 2018 fee statement.

⁹ Zolfo Cooper credited the difference of \$756.73 against the amounts payable under the May 2019 fee statement.

Date Filed [Docket No.]	Application Period Covered	Requested Fees	Requested Expenses	Order [Docket No.]	Fees Allowed and Paid	Expenses Allowed and Paid
7/15/19 Docket No. 8003	2/1/19 – 5/31/19	\$2,210,319.00	\$4,564.13	Docket No. 9488	Allowed: \$2,127,016.74 Paid: \$1,768,255.20 Authorized to be paid: \$1,768,255.20	Allowed: \$4,564.13 Paid: \$4,564.13 Authorized to be paid: \$4,564.13
11/15/19 Docket No. 9218	6/1/19 – 9/30/19	\$1,805,373.10	\$1,141.63	Docket No. N/A	Allowed: N/A Paid: \$1,441,421.80 Authorized to be paid: N/A	Allowed: N/A Paid: \$1,141.63 Authorized to be paid: N/A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

-----X
:
In re: : **PROMESA**
:
:
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND : **TITLE III**
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR :
:
PUERTO RICO, : **Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)**
:
as representative of : **Jointly Administered**
:
THE COMMONWEALTH OF :
PUERTO RICO, et al., :
:
Debtors.¹ :
:
-----X

**EIGHTH INTERIM APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, FINANCIAL
ADVISOR TO THE OFFICAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE
PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020**

Zolfo Cooper, LLC² (“Zolfo Cooper”, “ZC” or the “Firm”), as financial advisor
to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of all Title III Debtors (other than PBA and
COFINA) (the “Creditors’ Committee” or the “Committee”), hereby submits its eighth interim

¹ The Debtors in these Title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective Title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566(LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

² On November 1, 2018, AlixPartners, LLP (“AlixPartners”), a global consulting firm headquartered in New York, acquired all of the membership interests of ZC Holdings, LLC and its subsidiaries, including Zolfo Cooper. Zolfo Cooper will continue to provide services to the Committee on this matter as Zolfo Cooper, operating as a subsidiary of AlixPartners.

application for compensation and reimbursement of expenses (the “Application”), pursuant to sections 316 and 317 of the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* of 2016 (“PROMESA”),³ section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) as made applicable to these cases by section 301(a) of PROMESA, Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rule 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the “Local Rules”) for the interim allowance of compensation for professional services performed by ZC for the period from October 1, 2019 through and including January 31, 2020 (the “Application Period”) and for reimbursement of its actual and necessary expenses incurred during the Application Period. In support thereof, ZC respectfully represents as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. ZC, as financial advisor to the Committee, has worked diligently with the Committee to advise them on a host of critical issues attendant to these Title III cases. Among other things, ZC has been integrally involved in:

- (a) Reviewing and analyzing the Oversight Board’s Disclosure Statement and proposed joint Plan of Adjustment for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, ERS and PBA dated September 27, 2019 (“Plan of Adjustment”);
- (b) Analyzing the nature and extent of the unsecured claims pool;
- (c) Performing various analyses around the Commonwealth’s debt position and capacity, as well as reviewing and presenting commentary on historical and current debt restructuring proposals;
- (d) Assisting Paul Hastings in analysis integral to the Committee’s litigation strategy; and
- (e) Analyzing, evaluating and monitoring PREPA’s restructuring and support agreement (“RSA”), the privatization and integrated resource plan processes as well as PREPA’s regular reporting, including updates

³ References to PROMESA are references to 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101 *et. seq.*

on liquidity, accounts receivable, accounts payable, recovery efforts and electricity generation.

2. ZC has performed these services in an economic, effective, and efficient manner commensurate with the complexity and importance of the issues involved. For example, the work performed by ZC was carefully assigned to appropriate professionals or paraprofessionals according to the experience and level of expertise required for each particular task.⁴

3. In sum, ZC respectfully submits that the services for which it seeks compensation in this Application were necessary for and beneficial to the Committee, the Debtors, and their stakeholders and were rendered to protect, preserve, and maximize the value for unsecured creditors during the pendency of these title III cases. The results obtained to date have benefited not only the Committee but also the Debtors and their creditors. Accordingly, in light of the nature and complexity of these title III cases, ZC's charges for professional services performed and expenses incurred are reasonable under applicable standards. For all these reasons, ZC respectfully requests that the Court grant the Application and allow interim compensation for professional services performed and reimbursement for expenses as requested.

4. In accordance with the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, at the end of this Application are the following Exhibits:

- Exhibit A contains a summary of ZC's timekeepers included in this Application.
- Exhibit B contains a summary of the compensation requested by project category and matter number.

⁴ As noted, ZC has agreed to reduce its total fees by an amount equal to 20% of the overall case fees (with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process). For the avoidance of doubt, ZC seeks allowance of \$1,399,103.00 (i.e., 100% of fees for services rendered during the Application Period), but payment of only \$1,119,282.40, reflecting 80% of the fees for services rendered, plus 100% of the expenses allowed pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order in the amount of \$8,762.60 during the Application Period (to the extent such amounts have not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application).

- Exhibit C contains detailed time descriptions by matter category.⁵
- Exhibit D contains a summary of expenses incurred during the Application Period.
- Exhibit E contains a detailed listing of expenses incurred during the Application Period.

II. BACKGROUND

5. On May 3, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (“Oversight Board”) commenced a Title III case for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by filing a voluntary petition for relief pursuant to section 304 (a) of PROMESA (the “Commonwealth Title III Case”). Thereafter, the Oversight Board commenced a Title III case for each of COFINA, the Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS Title III Case”), the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA Title III Case”), the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA Title III Case”), and PBA (and together with the Commonwealth Title III Case, the “Title III Cases”).⁶ By orders dated June 29, 2017 [Docket No. 537] and October 6, 2017 [Docket No. 1417], the Court approved the joint administration of the Title III Cases.

6. On June 15, 2017, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico (the “U.S. Trustee”) filed a *Notice Appointing Creditors Committee for Unsecured Creditors* [Docket No. 338]. On June 27, 2017, the Committee selected Zolfo Cooper as financial advisor to the Committee.

7. On July 11, 2017, the Committee filed the Application of The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for Entry of Order Authorizing

⁵ Due to confidentiality restrictions, ZC cannot publicly disclose the substance of the issues addressed in mediation. Moreover, at the request of the mediation team, ZC has redacted all references to specific mediation issues in its time descriptions attached to this Application.

⁶ Unless otherwise indicated, references to docket numbers shall be to the docket of the Commonwealth Title III Case.

Employment and Retention of Zolfo Cooper, LLC as Financial Advisor, Effective as of June 27, 2017 [Docket No. 615] (the “Retention Application”).

8. On August 10, 2017, the Court entered the Order Authorizing Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to Employ and Retain Zolfo Cooper, LLC as Financial Advisor, Effective as of June 27, 2017 [Docket No. 1001] (the “Retention Order”).

9. On August 23, 2017, the Court entered the *Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* (as amended, the “Interim Compensation Order”).⁷

10. On August 25, 2017, the U.S. Trustee filed an *Amended Notice of Appointment of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors* [Docket No. 1171], which expanded the role of the Committee to be the official committee for the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case. ZC’s retention extends to the representation of the Committee as the official committee for the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case.

11. The Retention Order authorized ZC to be compensated on an hourly basis and reimbursed for actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses pursuant to sections 316 and 317 of PROMESA, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and such orders as the Court may direct. The Retention Order further provides that “[p]ursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 503(b)(1), made applicable by PROMESA section 301(a), the fees and expenses of Zolfo Cooper under this Order shall be an administrative expense.” In addition, as provided in the Retention Order, the Oversight Board has consented to the Debtors’ payment of ZC’s fees and expenses sought to be paid hereunder.

⁷ The Interim Compensation Order was amended on November 8, 2017, to reflect certain changes requested by the Fee Examiner and subsequently amended on June 6, 2018.

12. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total overall fees in connection with ZC's final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (to the extent such amount has not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application), but allowance of 100% of its fees.

13. On October 6, 2017, the Court entered the *Order Pursuant to PROMESA Sections 316 and 317 and Bankruptcy Code Section 105(a) Appointing a Fee Examiner and Related Relief* (the "Fee Examiner Order") [Docket No. 1416]. The Court appointed Brady Williamson as the Fee Examiner in the Title III Cases.

14. This is ZC's eighth interim fee application, covering the period from October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020. All services for which compensation is requested were performed for or on behalf of the Committee.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 306(a) of PROMESA. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to section 307(a) of PROMESA.

IV. BILLING PRACTICES

16. ZC hereby seeks compensation in accordance with its customary practices and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, Interim Compensation Order, and U.S. Trustee Guidelines.

17. ZC charges for its professional services based on actual hours expended to perform its services at standard hourly rates established for each employee, which hourly rates are subject to adjustment semi-annually. It is the customary practice of the Firm to bill clients for travel time consistent with the guidelines of the jurisdiction. Therefore, ZC has applied a 50% discount rate to non-working travel time billed. ZC records time entries in six-minute

increments. ZC's fees reflect economies resulting from the use of paraprofessional and support personnel to develop schedules and analyses, input computer data, perform research, work on fee applications, and other activities necessary to the efficient administration of this case. ZC does not include support services in the Firm's overhead for the purpose of establishing billing rates. Billing rates are generally representative of prevailing market rates, as awarded by other courts in similar circumstances, based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy engagements.

18. ZC charges for reasonably incurred, out-of-pocket expenses, including, but not limited to, costs of reproduction at the lesser of \$0.10 per page or cost and other direct expenses. Except in certain instances which may be listed in the expense detail attached hereto, all expenses are billed at actual cost, exclusive of amortization of the cost of any investment, equipment or capital outlay.

19. ZC maintains contemporaneous records of the time expended and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in support of its billings for services.

V. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

20. By this application ZC seeks interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered to the Committee during the Application Period in the aggregate amount of \$1,399,103.00⁸ and expense reimbursements in the aggregate amount of \$8,762.60. These amounts are allocated among the Commonwealth Title III Case, the HTA Title III Case, the ERS Title III Case, and the PREPA Title III Case as follows:

⁸ For the avoidance of doubt, while ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total fees sought to be paid in connection with ZC's final fee application, the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process.

Application Period	Fees	Expenses	Total
Commonwealth Title III Case	\$646,413.00	\$8,762.60	\$655,175.60
PREPA Title III Case	728,051.50	-	728,051.50
HTA Title III Case	7,206.00	-	7,206.00
ERS Title III Case	17,432.50	-	17,432.50
Total	\$1,399,103.00	\$8,762.60	\$1,407,865.60

21. The Committee has approved the amounts requested by ZC for services performed and expenses incurred in each of the monthly fee statements for the periods of (i) October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019, (ii) November 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019, (iii) December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, and (iv) January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020 (“Monthly Fee Statements”) submitted to, among others, the Oversight Board, AAFAF, the Fee Examiner and the U.S. Trustee during the Application Period.

22. As of the date of filing this Application and in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, ZC has received payments totaling \$709,683.18, for services rendered during the Application Period, which consists of \$516,260.80 (representing 80% of the \$645,326.00 in total fees incurred for the month of October 2019) and \$2,618.87 (representing 100% of expenses invoiced during the month of October 2019); \$187,738.00 (representing 80% of the \$234,672.50 in total fees incurred for the month of November 2019) and \$3,065.51 (representing 100% of expenses invoiced during the month of November 2019). ZC has not yet received payment for (a) \$176,699.60 in fees incurred during the month of December 2019 (representing 80% of the \$220,874.50 in total fees incurred during that period) and \$14.15 in expenses (representing 100% of total expenses incurred during that period),⁹ and (b) its fee

⁹ The deadline to object to ZC’s December 2019 fee statement was March 9, 2020. No objections were received, and, in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, the Debtors are required to pay 80% of the fees and 100% of the expenses requested in the December 2019 fee statement by March 23, 2020. As of the filing of this Application, ZC has not received payment on account of the December 2019 fee statement.

statement for the month of January 2020 in which ZC requested payment of \$238,584.00 in professional fees (representing 80% of the \$298,230.00 in total fees incurred during that period) and \$3,064.07 in expenses (representing 100% of total expenses incurred during that period).¹⁰ In total, ZC has submitted Monthly Fee Statements, during the Application Period, for professional fees in the amount of \$1,119,282.40 (representing 80% of the \$1,399,103.00 in professional fees incurred by ZC during the Application Period) and expenses incurred in the total amount of \$8,762.60 (representing 100% of the expenses incurred by ZC during the Application Period). Accordingly, as of the date of this Application, the aggregate amount of \$418,361.82, remains unpaid.

VI. SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED

23. Pursuant to the Local Rules and U.S. Trustee Guidelines, ZC classified all services performed for which compensation is sought into separate categories. ZC placed the services performed in the matter category that best relates to the services provided. Although certain services may relate to one or more matter category, services are only included in one matter category. The following paragraphs highlight key services rendered by ZC during the Application Period in certain matter categories where ZC has expended a considerable number of hours on behalf of the Committee, and are not meant to be a detailed description of all of the work performed by ZC.

1	Planning & Coordination / Case Management	<u>Hours</u>	<u>12.5</u>
----------	--	---------------------	--------------------

In order to ensure that ZC professionals avoided duplication of efforts, ZC maintained work plans and allocated resources to address the numerous tasks in order to effectively and efficiently execute on the engagement strategy.

¹⁰ The deadline to object to ZC's January 2020 fee statement is March 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (AST). No objections were received as of the filing of this Application.

2 Meetings and Communications with Committee Members and/or Professionals Hours 138.8

ZC spent considerable time preparing for and participating in conference calls and in-person meetings with the Creditors' Committee to provide updates with regard to the status of the cases. These calls and meetings included discussions pertaining to, among other things, the Plan of Adjustment, the Commonwealth liquidity position, analysis of unsecured claims, adversary proceedings and general case strategy. In preparation for these calls and meetings, ZC created analyses and presentations that were provided to the members of the Committee.

3 Communication with Interested Parties Hours 52.4

During the Application Period, ZC professionals attended and participated in meetings and conference calls with the Oversight Board, AAFAF, the mediation team, other official and ad hoc committees and their financial and legal advisors. These meetings and calls served as a basis to understand the positions of the various constituents involved in the case and to address questions raised by the Committee and its advisors.

4 Liquidity and Cash Management Hours 57.5

ZC professionals spent a significant portion of the Application Period reviewing the Commonwealth's weekly liquidity reports and analyzing the Commonwealth's cash position relative to its projections.

5 Fiscal Plan and Related Budgets Analysis and Assessment Hours 110.2

Zolfo Cooper continued to analyze the underlying supporting schedules and models that were provided with the Commonwealth's certified fiscal plan with a focus on the macroeconomic assumptions, analysis of the measures and feasibility. The team conducted further research on key components of the fiscal plan, including federal disaster relief funds, healthcare, pensions, taxes, debt and general baseline projections.

6 Financial and Other Diligence Hours 24.6

Time spent researching and documenting relevant information regarding the Debtors' state of affairs from public and non-public sources, including, but not limited to, audited financial statements, operating reports, filings on the electronic court docket, press releases, AAFAF's website, the Oversight Board's website and documents and schedules provided in the virtual data room.

11 Plan of Adjustment Review and Negotiations **Hours** 116.9

ZC spent significant time during the Application Period analyzing and reviewing the Commonwealth's Plan of Adjustment and Disclosure Statement as well as the plan support agreements that were entered into with certain GO and PBA bondholders, AFSCME and the Retiree Committee.

12 Litigation Support and Claims Analysis **Hours** 160.2

ZC spent a considerable amount of time during the Application Period performing research and preparing analyses to support counsel to the Committee with the filing of objections to claims and adversary complaints. In addition, ZC spent time analyzing and reviewing the claims register and claims presentation materials prepared by advisors to the Oversight Board.

19 PREPA Title III **Hours** 1,042.2

During the Application Period, ZC devoted significant time and effort with respect to PREPA related matters. The main focuses of ZC professionals efforts were performing research and preparing analyses to support counsel to the Committee in preparing the objection to the proposed 9019 settlement. ZC also reviewed and analyzed materials relating to the PREPA Title III Case, including publicly available financial information, court filings and information posted to PREPA's virtual data room. Additional time was spent assessing PREPA's transformation plan and integrated resource plan. ZC also participated in regularly scheduled update calls with PREPA's legal and financial advisors.

20 HTA Title III **Hours** 10.2

During the Application Period, ZC analyzed and reviewed materials relating to the HTA Title III Case, including publicly available financial information, filings on the electronic court docket and information posted to the virtual data room. ZC also analyzed the HTA term sheet framework that was made public on December 20, 2019.

21 ERS Title III **Hours** 24.4

During the Application Period, ZC analyzed and reviewed materials relating to the ERS Title III Case, including publicly available information and filings on the electronic court docket.

24. ZC believes that the fees and expenses requested are reasonable, and all amounts requested are for actual and necessary services rendered on behalf of the Committee.

25. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total overall fees in connection with ZC's final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (to the extent such amount has not been paid before the hearing scheduled on this Application), but allowance of 100% of its fees.

26. ZC has not entered into any agreement, express or implied, with any other party for the purpose of fixing or sharing fees or other compensation to be paid for professional services rendered in these cases. No promises have been received by ZC or any member thereof as to compensation in connection with these cases other than in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

VII. ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION

27. Section 316 provides for the compensation of professionals. Specifically, section 316 provides that a court may award a professional employed by a committee under section 1103 of the Bankruptcy Code "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered . . . and reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." PROMESA § 316(a). Section 316 of PROMESA also sets forth the criteria for the award of such compensation and reimbursement:

- (a) In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a professional person, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including:
 - (i) the time spent on such services;
 - (ii) the rates charged for such services;

- (iii) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this chapter;
- (iv) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed;
- (v) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the restructuring field; and
- (vi) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title or title 11, United States Code.

For all of the foregoing reasons, ZC believes the amounts herein are reasonable in light of the nature, extent and value of the services to the Committee, the Debtors, and all parties in interest.

VIII. NOTICE

28. In accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, ZC will provide notice of this Application to (i) the attorneys for the Oversight Board, Proskauer Rose LLP and O'Neill & Borges LLC; (ii) the attorneys for the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority, O'Melveny & Myers LLP and Marini Pietrantonio Muniz LLC; (iii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Puerto Rico; (iv) the attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Paul Hastings LLP and Casillas, Santiago & Torres LLC; (v) the attorneys for the Official Committee of Retired Employees, Jenner & Block LLP and Bennazar, Garcia & Milian, C.S.P; (vi) Puerto Rico Department of Treasury; (vii) the Fee Examiner, Brady Williamson; and (viii) counsel to the Fee Examiner, Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. and EDGE Legal Strategies, PSC. In addition, the notice of hearing with respect to this Application will be served on all parties that have filed a notice of appearance in the Title III Cases.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

IX. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, ZC respectfully requests entry of an order (i) allowing ZC's claims for fees and expenses for professional services rendered during the Application Period in the amount of \$1,399,103.00 and expense reimbursements in the amount of \$8,762.60; (ii) directing the Debtors' payment of the difference between the sum of 80% of the fees allowed plus 100% of the expenses allowed and the amounts previously paid by the Debtors pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order; and (iii) granting ZC such other and further relief as is just.

Dated: March 16, 2020
New York, New York

/s/ Scott R. Martinez

Scott R. Martinez
Director
ZOLFO COOPER, LLC
909 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 561-4000

Financial Advisor to the Committee

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

	X	
	:	
In re:	:	
	:	
THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND	:	PROMESA
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,	:	Title III
	:	
as representative of	:	Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)
	:	
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
Debtors. ¹	:	
	X	

**DECLARATION OF SCOTT R. MARTINEZ IN SUPPORT OF EIGHTH INTERIM FEE
APPLICATION OF ZOLFO COOPER, LLC, AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO OFFICIAL
COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS, FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR PERIOD FROM
OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020**

Pursuant to Rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), I, Scott R. Martinez, declare that the following is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

1. I am an authorized signatory for Zolfo Cooper, LLC (“Zolfo Cooper”), a New Jersey limited liability company, in connection with this matter. I make this Declaration in support of the *Eighth Interim Application of Zolfo Cooper, LLC, Financial Advisor to Official*

¹ The Debtors in these title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3283 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481), (ii) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (“ERS”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3566(LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686), (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (“HTA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3567 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808), (iv) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (“COFINA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-3284 (LTS)) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 17-BK-4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747); and (vi) Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority (“PBA”) (Bankruptcy Case No. 19-BK-5233) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3801).

Committee of Unsecured Creditors, for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period from October 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 (the “Application”).²

2. The facts set forth in this Declaration are based upon my personal knowledge, discussions with other Zolfo Cooper professionals, and the firm’s client/matter records that were reviewed by me or Zolfo Cooper professionals acting under my supervision and direction.

3. I hereby certify that I have read the Application and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry, (a) the compensation and reimbursement of expenses sought in the Application conform with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, and the Local Rules (collectively, the “Guidelines”), and (b) the compensation and reimbursement of expenses are billed at rates no less favorable to the Debtors than those customarily employed by Zolfo Cooper generally.

4. ZC has agreed to reduce its fees by an amount equal to 20% of the total overall fees in connection with ZC’s final fee application, with the precise fees to be waived to attain the 20% reduction to be designated by ZC (in its sole discretion) in connection with the final fee application process. For that reason, ZC is only seeking payment of 80% of its unpaid fees (but allowance of 100% of its fees).

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings set forth in the Application.

5. I declare under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge and after reasonable inquiry, the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 16th day of March, 2020

/s/ Scott R. Martinez

Scott R. Martinez